

WILL SPONSOR TRAINING PLAN

Universal Military Instruction
System to Be Backed by
Administration.

SCHEDULE MOST ELASTIC

President Wilson Insists On
Vocational Education Fea-
ture for Post-War Reasons.

(By David Lawrence. Copyright, 1918,
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Washington, Aug. 3.—For many weeks there have been whisperings to the effect that President Wilson has changed his mind about universal military training as a permanent institution in American life.

Nothing definite has issued from the White House or anywhere else about it, but just the same something has happened—whether it can be called a change of position on the part of the president, or the discovery of a way to develop the ideas which he has always had about training the youth of the country remains to be seen.

The president has been besought to give his approval to many plans for a system of universal training. Recently it was understood that legislation pending in the senate was dropped because of administration disapproval. That arose for a number of reasons, the shortage of officers to work out a plan and a dislike of the particular way the scheme was mapped out.

Mr. Wilson has always felt that some system of universal training was desirable, but he scented dangers in its application. Now he has made it clear to those who have broached the question with him that if a plan can be formulated which will make it possible to introduce vocational and industrial education on a large scale in this country, it would unquestionably be worth while doing.

No Adequate Plan Yet
No one has drafted a complete or adequate plan as yet, but different groups of those interested are hard at work on it, knowing that the president will give serious consideration to the various proposals submitted.

It is premature to say that anything, therefore, has been agreed upon. The trend, however, so far as the principles on which the new legislation will be based—and it will be an administration measure—seems to be to make it

possible for America to realize a new kind of Americanism, the education of all her youth in some useful trade or occupation or profession immediately upon reaching the age of eighteen.

Whether it will be compulsory in the sense of being rigidly applied to everybody or selective in the sense of taking only those who are not already the sole support of their parents or relatives, is another principle not yet settled, but illustrative of the comprehensive nature of the inquiry now being conducted to discover the most feasible plan.

One idea that appears to have met with favor is the requirement that for seven years after a boy reaches the age of eighteen he shall have to take some form of military training and vocational education from the government.

The president is insistent that vocational education shall accompany all military training, and it would not be surprising if the latter feature became predominant in his plan.

There are so many young men who cannot read or write at the age of eighteen simply because the states have failed to do their duty in compulsory education, and there are so many young men who have not been guided into trades or occupations which they are best fitted to undertake that the advocates of combined system of vocational education and military training are confident the plan will do for America in future days of peace what the work or fight order is now doing for us in time of war.

There are many difficulties to be smoothed out, many perplexing phases of the question to be settled. While the movement for universal military training has been under way for nearly three years with the National Security league as one of its chief sponsors, it cannot be said that the latter's plan or anybody else's has been approved.

The big development, however, is that the president has virtually agreed to stand back of a workable plan that meets his ideas of vocational education as well as military instruction.

Mr. Wilson's position on universal military training was, perhaps, best expressed in an interview between him and a committee from the American union against militarism on May 2, 1918, the stenographic report of which I believe has never been published, but I give here an extract from it. The president said in part:

"It is not inconsistent with American tradition that everybody should know how to shoot and take care of himself. On the contrary, it is distinctly implied in our bill of rights where the right to carry arms is reserved to all of us. There is no use carrying arms if you do not know what to do with them. I should say it was not inconsistent with the traditions of the country that the people should know how to take care of themselves, but it is inconsistent with the traditions of the country that their knowledge of arms should be used by a governmental organization.

Baker's Aide in Europe



Edward H. Stettinius, second assistant secretary of war, has arrived in Europe, according to an official announcement given out at Washington. Mr. Stettinius will make a general survey of the activities of supplies, including all matters of accounting, requisition and finance. He will also represent the interests of the war department in the conference of the munitions council. With Food Administrator Hoover and Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt now in Europe, the arrival of Mr. Stettinius represents a gathering of important American officials calculated to materially assist teamwork and efficiency in war work.

which would make and organize a great army, subject to orders to do what a particular group of men might at the time think it was best to have it do.

"That is the militarism of Europe where a few persons can determine what an armed nation is to do. This is what I understand militarism to be. But a nation acquainted with arms is not a militaristic nation unless there is somebody who can by an order determine what they shall all do with that force. I think we ought to be very careful not to let these different things seem as if they were the same."

The above was spoken almost a year before America entered the war, and the president was making clear his views on preparedness or what he termed "reasonable preparation."

He touched on something which the supporters of the universal military training idea are asserting is an advantage in training our youth in arms. They are saying that at the peace con-

ference America will be able to exert a bigger influence if she has potentially a large force available to back up her words.

How to Back Up Words.
Here is what the president said before: "As to the general thing we are all most profoundly interested in, and that is peace—we want peace for the world. Now, I do not know, I cannot speak about what I am going to speak about with any degree of confidence. I do not suppose any man can—but a nation which, by the standards of other nations, however mistaken the standards may be, is regarded as helpless, in general, comes to be regarded as negligible, and when you go into a conference to establish foundations for the peace of the world, you must go in on a basis intelligible to the people you are conferring with."

"Now let us suppose that we have formed a family of nations and that family of nations says the world is not going to have any more wars of this sort without at least first going through certain processes to show whether there is anything to cause it or not. If you say, we shall not have any war, you have got to have force to make that 'shall' bite. And the rest of the world, if America takes part in this thing, will have the right to expect from her that she contribute her element of force to the general understanding. Surely that is not a militaristic ideal. That is a very practical ideal."

And the above line of argument is precisely what the universal military training advocates are urging, on the ground that America must show to Germany that the United States intends to see to it that the peace of the world is kept—there will not be a standing army, but reserves sufficient to defend the principles and provisions of the treaty that binds the whole world to keep the peace.

Fear of After-the-War.
But it is after the war when the heat and military ardor of the present struggle shall have died down that the opponents of military training have feared militarism would develop out of any system of universal military training that could be devised. These argue that the present war shows how narrow-minded the military man can be when once he has authority and red tape to play with. They declare that to introduce military discipline interferes with the initiative of the individual at an important time in his life.

Shall his university career, for instance, be interrupted while he is put under army officers for a year? To this the advocates say that there are more advantages than disadvantages; that some system can be worked out which will remove these dangers; that, perhaps, the schools and colleges can take care of military instruction in their curricula and that a boy who is the sole support of his family and has already engaged at the age of 18 in a useful trade may be spared by his employer without loss of compensation for a couple months in the summer time.

The whole plan is still in embryo.

The wisdom of Solomon may be necessary to work out a plan that will satisfy all the elements in congress and keep it in operation after peace comes.

But it seems to be pretty generally agreed that if a system of universal training is put into operation during the war and works results that are manifestly good, congress will keep on appropriating money for it, whereas under an adverse set of circumstances when congress gets back to economies and a riddance of taxation, the military feature might grow less important with the evolution of disarmament, and vocational education become the dominant factor.

That is, perhaps, the president's reason for insisting on the latter. At any rate, his idea seems to be to have an all-embracing and elastic system. Some system of universal training, however, is going to be sponsored by the administration.

ARMY MAY DECIDE CAILLAUX'S FATE

Question Is Whether a Former
Premier Shall Be at Mercy
of Military Judges.

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Paris.—As the inquiry into ex-Premier Joseph Caillaux's alleged treasonable dealings with the enemy nears its end, the question has again arisen whether a former premier of France shall appear before the senate sitting as a high court, which ex-Minister of the Interior Louis Malvy is now facing, or a French court-martial. When the inquiry is finished the whole affair will be turned over to the military governor of Paris, who will decide which jurisdiction Caillaux shall face.

If he is tried by court-martial he will be arraigned before military judges, who have shown themselves extremely strict with those persons they have already tried for communicating with the enemy. Hundreds of witnesses have been heard in the preliminary inquiry of Caillaux's case by Capt. Bouchardon, and the former premier has been questioned more than sixty times. He is still in prison.

It is not expected that the trial will be taken up before September, and even then it may not be until some time in the last fortnight of that month. It has been reported that the French authorities have decided to dispose of the cases of Senator Charles Humbert, Deputy Louis Truand and Lawyer Comby before trying Caillaux, who is supposed to have been concerned with those persons in illegal dealings.

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